

## EXAMPLE 6

2-[(4S)-3-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-2,2-dimethyl-5-oxo-1,3-oxazolan-4-yl]acetic acid--

A marked-up copy of these paragraphs, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-3, 5, 10 and 12 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of claims 1-3, 10 and 12, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

1. (Amended) A process of synthesizing N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprising the steps of:

(a) reacting an admixture of N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L-aspartic acid and a ketone in a first solvent for a time and at a temperature sufficient to produce an oxazolidinone derivative; and

(b) reacting an admixture of the oxazolidinone derivative and L-phenylalanine or L-phenylalanine methyl ester in a second solvent for a time and at a temperature sufficient to produce N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

2. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the ketone is selected from the group consisting of hexafluoroacetone, hexachloroacetone, and combinations thereof.

CG  
3. (Twice Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the ketone is selected from the group consisting of dimethyl or diethyl acetals of hexafluoroacetone, hexachloroacetone, and combinations thereof.

CH  
5. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L-aspartic acid to the ketone is from about 1:1 to about 1:4.

CH  
10. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the admixture of N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L-aspartic acid and a ketone further comprises a catalyst.

CH  
12. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the admixture of N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L-aspartic acid and a ketone further comprises an acid.

In the Abstract:

Please enter the attached substitute abstract. A marked-up copy of the abstract, showing the changes made thereto, is also attached.

Remarks

The claims are 1-20, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claims 1-3, 5, 10 and 12 have been amended to clarify the invention. First, the claims have been amended to replace the term "carbonyl compound" or "activated carbonyl compound" with --ketone--. In addition, the claims have been amended to remove any reference to aldehydes. Further, both the specification and abstract have been amended to make the